THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) For Rabi Marketing Season 2001-02 storage cost has provisionally been allowed uniformly @ Rs. 21.00 per tonne per month to various States, including Punjab and Haryana, which procure wheat for the Central Pool. The storage cost is not fixed-city-wise separately.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Forward trading in agricultural products

4153. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO :
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow "forward trading" in agricultural products to develop national market; and

(b) if so, by when, it would be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Government propose to widen the scope of future trading by including major agricultural commodities that are suitable for futures trading. The suitability of such commodities is studied/evaluated in terms of the volume of production, marketable surplus, product homogeneity, price fluctuations and operation of the existing market at the time the commodity is proposed. As such, no time limit can be specified.

Accuracy of dispensing units/pumps for petrol and diesel

4154. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the accuracy of dispensing units/pumps for dispensing petrol/diesel are tested with the standard working measures as per Weights and Measures Act and the same is kept under the custody of the official of department;

(b) which is the authority to verify, inspect and decide the accuracy of any stamped and sealed measures including dispensing pump under the said Act;

(c) whether any person/organisation other than the official of this department can override the decision of the official authorised under Weights and Measures Act on the above issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The accuracy of dispensing units/pumps for dispensing petrol/diesel are tested with check measures. The check measures are tested for accuracy against the appropriate working standard measures at least once in a period of six months and duly sealed. The standard measures are kept under the custody of the personnel of the department of the State Governments empowered to carry out the checking under the provisions of the Weights and Measures Acts.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Failure of States to implement Antyodaya Anna Yojana

4155. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "States fail to implement Antyodya Yojana Scheme" as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated the 27th July, 2001;

(b) if so, whether several States have urged the Central Government to bear the transportation and distribution costs for the supply of foodgrains under the scheme; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes Sir. The newspaper report on 'States fail to implement Antyodaya Anna Yojana' gives the position of implementation of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland,